

10/30/60

U. S. Food and Drug Administration;

Please grant our petition to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals - docket number 98P-3184 EC P1. Animals who are too sick or injured even to stand should not be allowed to enter the human food chain. In addition to posing an increased risk for bacterial contamination, there is evidence that some downed animals may be inflicted with a form of BSE or Mad Cow Disease, a disease which has been linked to a fatal human illness (CJD or Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease). It is practically impossible to move downed animals humanely, and they are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains - inhumane processes which cause injuries ranging from bruises and abrasions to broken bones and torn ligaments. Downed animals comprise a very small percentage of animals slaughtered and prohibiting their marketing will cause no undue economic hardship. Industry experts have estimated that 90% of downed animals can be prevented with better care & handling. Removing the market for downed animals will provide an incentive for the industry to prevent downed animals in the first place. Please Help,



Elizabeth Gingery
1921 Ellison Dr.
Modesto, CA 95355

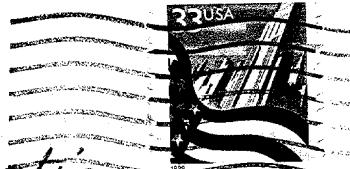
Elizabeth Gingery

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Elizabeth Gingery
1921 Ellison Dr.
Modesto, CA 95355



U.S. Food & Drug Administration

Dockets Management Branch

5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1061

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